

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 02757 091636Z

12

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 DHA-02 INSE-00 VO-03 SCA-01 /020 W

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R 091406Z APR 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9276

UNCLAS GENEVA 2757

FOR D/HA CARLIN

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: ASSYRIAN AND ARMENIAN REFUGEES REJECTED BY INS

UNHCR HAS FURNISHED FOLLOWING INFORMATION RE SUBJECT:

QUOTE: IN PERIOD MAY/JUNE 1973, 3,000 ASSYRIANS AND ARMENIANS
FROM IRAQ REACHED LEBANON AND CLAIMED REFUGEE STATUS. ONE THOUSAND
WERE INITIALLY ACCEPTED AND 2,000 REFUSED BY UNHCR.

STRONG REACTIONS FROM VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN THE UNITED STATES, PARTICULARLY CHURCH WORLD SERVICES, NEW YORK,
AND ASSYRIAN UNIVERSAL ALLIANCE, CHICAGO, AND INFORMAL REQUESTS
FROM US GOVERNMENT AND CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES LED TO REVIEW
OF 2,000 CASES BY UNHCR RESULTING IN A POSITIVE DECISION FOR
APPROXIMATELY 200. ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT OF ABOVE 200 UNHCR
ELIGIBLE CASES EXAMINED BY INS OFFICER AUGUST 1975 IN BEIRUT WERE
REFUSED APPARENTLY AS ECONOMIC MIGRANTS.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FEELS STRONGLY THAT THESE 168 HAVE
BEEN RECOGNIZED REFUGEES AFTER CLOSEST SCRUTINY AND CANNOT
BE CONSIDERED MERE ECONOMIC MIGRANTS. AS THESE NOW TRANS-
PORTED ATHENS ALONG WITH REST CASELOAD ONLY WITH UNDERSTANDING
THEY WOULD BE PROCESSED NORMALLY ALONG WITH OTHERS. THIS
CREATES SERIOUS PROBLEM WHICH MUST BE RESOLVED SINCE

1) GREEK AUTHORITIES ONLY AGREED TEMPORARY TRANSIT AND
MAY TAKE ADVERSE ATTITUDE TOWARDS REQUESTS ASSYRIANS AND
ARMENIANS REMAIN IN GREECE LONGER THAN ANTICIPATED,
2) OTHER PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES UNLIKELY AND DISPLACED
PERSONS PARTICULARLY FROM LATIN AMERICA AND INDOCHINA.

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 02757 091636Z

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Disposition Event:
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